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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a method for separating ~~by sedimentation~~ red blood cells having about 30-64 Hematocrit from a solution including blood, a sterile washing fluid, and an anticoagulant by sedimentation and without centrifugation, the improvement wherein said anticoagulant consists essentially of an inert anticoagulant.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said CPD is mixed with said blood at a ratio of one part CPD and up to fifteen parts blood.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.

a! 5. (Currently Amended) In a method for separating ~~by sedimentation~~ red blood cells having about 30-64 Hematocrit from a solution including blood and an anticoagulant by sedimentation and without centrifugation, the improvement wherein said anticoagulant consists essentially of an anticoagulant selected from the group consisting of CPD and heparin.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for washing blood comprising the steps of providing said blood with an inert anticoagulant, mixing said blood with a washing solution, and allowing red blood cells to separate from said washing solution to about 30-64 Hematocrit by sedimentation without centrifugation.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution includes a starch solution.

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9. A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution includes hetastarch.
 10. A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution is 6% hetastarch.
 11. A method according to claim 6 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.
 12. (Canceled) A solution comprising blood, anti-coagulant, and a washing solution, wherein said anticoagulant is selected from the group consisting of CPD and heparin.
 13. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 12 wherein said washing solution comprises starch.
 14. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 13 wherein said starch is hetastarch.
 15. (Canceled) A solution consisting essentially of blood, an inert anti-coagulant, and a washing solution.
 16. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 15 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.
 17. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 15 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.
 18. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 15 wherein said blood is a sediment layer of blood.
 19. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 18 wherein said sediment layer contains a majority of the red blood cells of said blood.
 20. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 19 wherein said sediment layer is about 30-64 Hematocrit.

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Please add the following new claims:

21. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the period for said sedimentation is about twenty minutes.

a 22. (New) A method according to claim 5 wherein the period for said sedimentation is about twenty minutes.

23. (New) A method according to claim 6 wherein the period for said sedimentation is about twenty minutes.
